

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE<sup>9</sup>

Abstract

## Method and Apparatus for Coupling an ATM Communication Layer to a Plurality of Time-Division Multiplex Communication Terminals

~~and apparatus~~

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5 A method for coupling an ATM communication layer to a plurality of N mutually time-independent time-division multiplex communication terminals having an overall payload cell rate  $CR_N$  which involves ~~comprises the steps~~: generating a control signal sequence with a clock rate corresponding to the overall payload cell rate  $CR_N$  of the N time-division multiplex communication terminals, whereby the control signals can represent a first or a second status; offering a fixed data pattern; transmitting the ATM  
10 cells coming from the ATM communication layer into an ATM cell waiting list; transmitting, on demand, an ATM cell from the ATM waiting list to the requesting time-division multiplex communication terminal when the respectively oldest control signal of the control signal sequence represents the first status, and transmitting the fixed data pattern to the requesting time-division multiplex communication terminal  
15 when the oldest control signal of the control signal sequence represents the second status; and deleting the oldest control signal of the control signal sequence. The method enables a frictionless coupling of an ATM communication layer having a plurality of mutually independent time-division multiplex communication terminals, whereby variable data rates (burst behavior) of the ATM layer as well as of the time-  
20 division multiplex communication terminals can be decoupled from one another and good cell delay variation (CDV) properties can be assured.

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~~Figure 1~~